

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

MAY 2002

WA2EIU grateful for opportunity to assist in NYC

Note from NYC Ham Volunteer Trip
Jim Wingate - WA2EIU

This is a summary of my experience in New York City this past week. I was extremely grateful for this chance to volunteer to help (with the support of my family, colleagues at school and my church) and to observe firsthand the men and women rescuers that are truly heroes. The amateur radio operators who are members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service team (ARES) train monthly in the United States in emergency communication techniques that would be used in a time of emergency and in which emergency communications skills would be needed in the field. Hams provide communications usually during the first hours of a tornado, hurricane or earthquake when all traditional communications fail. i.e. telephones, cell phones, radios etc. Typically in an emergency situation, a ham radio operator would provide communications between hospitals, shelters, police and fire departments that would last from two to three hours. However the ham radio assistance could go on for a week or more. The terrorist attack in



Atlanta Radio Club member Jim Wingate, WA2EIU relays emergency communications during NYC recovery efforts

New York City has been quite a bit different in its enormous size and scope of the emergency communication needs. I was made aware of the

(Continued on page 6)

2002 Atlanta Hamfest ~ Here we come!

Well, the Atlanta Hamfest is just around the corner. Hamfest chairman John Talipsky reports the vendors are lined up and flea market tables are filling up for the 74th Annual Atlanta Hamfest on June 1st.

Volunteers are still being sought to fill some holes on Friday and Saturday. If you would like to help, please contact John Talipsky, KA4VQH, at 770-995-6446 or email johnka4vqh@aol.com

John has requested that anyone who participates in some of the more heavily worked nets around the bands to please make an announcement about the upcoming hamfest. Use the hamfest ad on page 7 as a reference card while working these nets.

The success of the hamfest depends on your participation! TABLE APPLICATION ... Page 7

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THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

Atlanta Radio Club
Attn: HAM EDITOR
PO BOX 720398
Atlanta, Georgia 30358

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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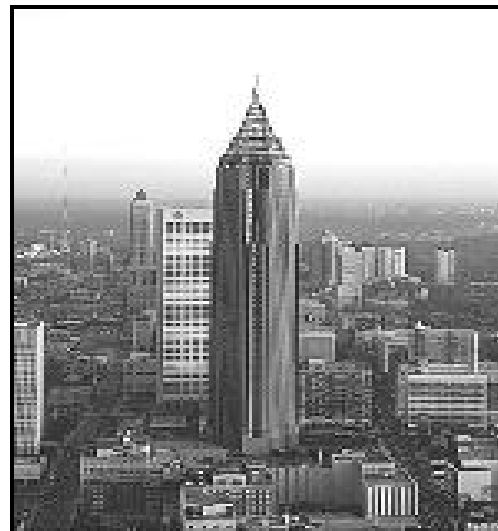
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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment, including computers



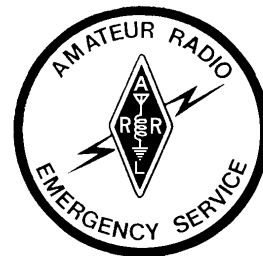
Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW, and should also be on the air before May 1, 2002. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Thursday May 2, 2002 730pm
WHERE: The Red Cross – 1955 Monroe Drive

TALK IN: 146.820 (-) PL 146.2

DINNER: 615pm - The Picadilly Cafeteria located at
Ansley Mall – 1544 Piedmont Rd

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – PENN K4PE

Thanks go to Marty Reynolds, AA4RM, for a fine program at our April meeting. Marty told us about QRP in the 1920s at our April meeting and brought the oldest HF radio gear I've ever seen.

Our May program is to be given by Joe, KD5OJW. Joe will talk about the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN – see <http://www.satern.org>). This is the same organization that Jim, WA2EIU, assisted during the WTC disaster last September. Jim submitted a summary of his efforts as an ARES and SATERN volunteer in the aftermath of the WTC disaster to the HAM editorial staff so I assume you can learn more about Jim's adventures in this issue. Jim says he'll do his best to attend our May program on SATERN by Joe, KD5OJW.

This is the last HAM you will receive prior to our big Hamfest. Please tell all your friends about the ARC's Hamfest. It promises to be our best event ever with educational forums, a large boneyard, and commercial exhibits! See <http://www.atlantahamfest.com> for more information. The Atlanta Hamfest is our primary fundraiser and helps pay for the repeater gear that we use as a club. If we have a good Hamfest we can do good works like renovate the 444.825 repeater and award scholarships. Please ask any club officer how you can help.

For repeater updates: See Repeater News & Updates Page 5

Thanks to Jim Wingate, WA2EIU and Rick Glisson, N4XMX for their submission of material for use in this month's Atlanta Ham. If you would like to submit an article, favorite homebrew project, or tech tip let the editor John Talipsky, KI4Y know!

73's Penn, K4PE

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Phillip Michael KG4SJZ – Student – Technician – Atlanta
Robin Kidd KG4RSQ – Technician – Norcross

DX CLUSTER

Submitted by: Rick Glisson, N4XMX

Chasing DX has been my favorite aspect of ham radio for many years. A system of announcing DX has been available for well over fifteen years most notably using the DX Packet Cluster™ software by AK1A. A full Windows 32 bit version of packet spotting software is called AR-Cluster and that is what Ernie, KS4Q and I are using now. The big advantage is that internet connectivity between nodes means the spots can be truly world-wide. In this article, I will explain how to use the system here in the Atlanta and surrounding areas to help catch that elusive DX!

The packet system can be accessed either by RF using a 2M radio or by the internet directly. I will first explain how to connect using a 2M radio. The current system uses a 2M radio, a terminal node controller (TNC), and either a dumb terminal or computer.

The 2M radio can be almost anything. I have used a couple of HT's, as well as a twenty year old Azden. Each radio will have its own way to connect to the TNC so check the instruction book or go online to check for articles where people have already figured it out. Basically, you are connecting the mic input, speaker output, and PTT (push to talk) lines out of the radio to the TNC. The TNC acts similar to the modem in your computer, converting characters to tones and back. These tones are what are sent out over the radio. One word here about antennas. Just like with everything else in ham radio, a better antenna will give you better results. If a vertical doesn't work, try making or buying a small three element yagi for 2M. I rotate mine with a TV rotor.

There are several TNC's used locally. The speed of most of the connections over the air are 2400 baud. Kantronics had a KPC-2400. This unit is no longer being made but can be found at hamfest, etc. MFJ still makes a TNC which will take a 2400 baud modem board. Both will work. Each must be connected to either a dumb

terminal or computer to view what is being sent. Setting for either are 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit. This is also known as 8N1. This is the default for most TNC's. There is one node listed that is 1200 baud.

To see what is being sent and to be able to send data, you need either a terminal or computer. The advantage to using a computer is that many logging programs will interface with the cluster through the serial port coming from the TNC and check your log to see if you need it. I use DXBase logging software and I can click a DX spot and it will even tune my radio to the frequency of the spot!

Listed below are the current RF frequencies and speeds available. I will give instructions for N4XMX here. If you are on 144.91, type C N4XMX and follow the prompts the first time. If you are on 145.65 and using ARCDX, first type "C ARCDX" and then at the prompt either type "DX" or "C

N4XMX". That will connect you to me going through the ARCDX repeater downtown. This is useful for people on the southside or unable to connect any other way.

DX PACKET FREQ.

N4XMX (2400) 144.91 (direct or GNTNOD),
(2400) 145.65 (direct or ARCDX)
N4XMX is located in Vinings (near Smyrna), ARCDX is the middle of downtown.

KS4Q (2400) 145.01 MHz; 'c saw3'
(2400) 144.97 MHz; 'c saw4'
(1200) 145.63 MHz; 'c saw5'
KS4Q is in Lawrenceville.

Once you get a connect on any of the three above frequencies, enter 'c saw1'. Once you get a connect to saw1, enter 'c ks4q' or simply 'dx'.

Continued...back cover



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atlanta@hamradio.com
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(Continued on page 8)

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC
2:00 PM (Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainseville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Thursday – EVEN # MONTHS 7:00 PM
Fayette County Repeater Assn, ARRL VEC
Peachtree City Library, downstairs
Ed Ferguson, N4YTR (edferg@peoplepc.com)

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM
Walton EMC Building
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second SaturdayCA VEC 8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, K14RD (770)978-9160

Second Saturday – ODD # MONTHS 10:00 AM
Fayette County Repeater Assn, ARRL VEC
Peachtree City Library, downstairs
Ed Ferguson, N4YTR (edferg@peoplepc.com)

Third SaturdayCA VEC 9:00 AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth FridayW5YI VEC 7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn
Headphones provided
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

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ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR MAY 2002

2002 Atlanta Hamfest – June 1, 2002 830AM – 330PM
Jim Miller Park – Cobb Co.

STARS – May 25, 12pm – 3pm SCITREK
Contact Penn. K4PE

NEWINGTON CT., April 16, 2002 -- The SEEHUND U-5075 Amateur Radio Association, WW2MAN, will participate in its first "Submarines On The Air" special event April 27-28. WW2MAN is the club's new vanity call sign. The club will run two stations on HF and will have some activity on Boston area 2-meter repeaters. QSL cards will be available to stateside hams in exchange for an SASE. DX contacts should QSL via the W2 Bureau. SEEHUND U-5075 is located at the US Naval Shipbuilding Museum, Quincy, Massachusetts. USS Lionfish, W2SUB, berthed in Fall River, Massachusetts will also participate.

More than 30 museum submarines worldwide will participate in this Submarine Veterans Amateur Radio Association special event. Stations will transmit on 80, 40, 15, 10 and 6 meters--CW and SSB. A list of Museum Submarines with call signs can be found at <http://www.marinefunker.de/eng/shiplist.html>.

REPEATER NEWS & UPDATES...

Submitted by: Penn, K4PE

Thanks go to Ronnie Julian, K4RJJ and Brandon, K4GVL, who helped me deploy a 70A DC supply to power our Vocom 2m RF power amplifier. Ronnie also rounded up some fans to keep the power supply cool. We're now supplying the Vocom 40 Amps DC continuous from a Astron RS-70M. The Astron seems capable of this, though we doubt it can handle the 56A continuous on Astron's data sheet. Matt, WB6BWZ, once told me that the commercial users divide Astron's continuous ratings by two, or 50% of the datasheet rated power. By that metric we are taking our chances with anything over 28A, but 40A seems to be working OK. If we have another power supply failure I recommend that we look for a bigger DC supply from another supplier. We'll cross that bridge if required.

KD4EHM's voter controller should be installed by the time you read this. Enter "#11D" to see which receiver you're hitting. We now have five receivers feeding the voter: three at the bank and two remotes. We had four at the bank, but KD4ABB removed the duplexer cavities from the system and we are now transmitting only on the upper spire antenna. That should improve our transmit signal strength by the duplexer insertion loss of 3db, but this change makes our system slightly less sensitive. We have plans to put up a remote site in Gwinnett County which will greatly enhance our sensitivity.

We are close to deployment on the FOX tower machines. Please give 145.35 and 444.45 a workout. Use them. A lot. We would obviously rather these repeaters fail before we deploy them 1600' feet above the ground. If you are in North Fulton or Gwinnet you should be able to hit these two repeaters. Any comments about their performance will be appreciated.

WA2EIU...

(Continued from page 1)

call for ham radio operators on September 11th within hours of the attack on the WTC via email. The emergency message was that the NYC hams were activating and within hours of the attack the call went out requesting the need for more volunteers from all over the country. Being

familiar with the streets in Manhattan, I was able to easily direct various unit trucks and cars to locations throughout the city. The ham radio operators rode in the trucks and vans throughout the city delivering supplies and people to the sites as needed. I also spent some time at hanger at JFK (where the supply sorting and hat were killed in the disaster). Each ham provided their own communications

food, supplies and help to so many people. The faces of the workers in the "ground zero" zone profoundly struck me. I find that I am not able to forget the look of fatigue and despair as they would come to the canteens for supplies of food. I was not prepared for the intense suffering that I witnessed in the few days with my friends in New York. The great loss of so many innocent people and the many sad stories of families in pain will be forever in my memory.

"I was extremely grateful for this chance to volunteer to help (with the support of my family, colleagues at school and my church) and to observe firsthand the men and women rescuers that are truly heroes."

Jim Wingate, WA2EIU

September 30th-October 5th, 2001

a resident of New York City for 30 years the call to go to the city to help was very powerful. I began checking various schedule possibilities in Atlanta to see if it might be possible for me to help. Ham operators were needed for both the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. After I received an email confirming the need for another volunteer I made the decision and arrangements to go to NYC. I flew to New York on September 30th, following the morning Sunday church service and was met by my son John (who is a NYC Police Officer) at JFK on Sunday evening. I was assigned to the Salvation Army SATERN Team on Monday morning and began work at their command center as net controller. Each ham volunteer was requested to bring to New York a Dual Band Mobile (2M/70cm) with a Mag Mount Antenna, a Dual Band HT (2m/70cm) HT, boots, latex gloves, bottled water, particle mask, protective helmet, boots and extra batteries all of which I drug around in a little green bag as I was assigned to various locations during the week. My days always began at the Command Center at the Salvation Army's Headquarters on West 14th Street each morning at 7:00 AM when I opened the command station and ending - 10, 12 or 16 hours later. Since I was fa-

equipment, supplies and transportation to New York City and the will to "try to assist" the people effected in the disaster in some helpful way. The Salvation Army provided food and a hotel room. You had to be impressed at the compassion shown by the Salvation Army group as they offered



Jim, WA2EIU, operates command station radio at Salvation Army's Headquarters

ATLANTA HAMFEST 2002 – APPLICATION FOR TABLES & TICKETS

Name _____ Call _____

Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST ____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ Admission Ticket	@ \$5 = \$_____	
_____ Tailgating Space	@ \$5 = \$_____	
_____ Indoor Flea Only (One pass included – not eligible for door prize)	@ \$15 = \$_____	
_____ Chair	@ \$1 = \$_____	
TOTAL ENCLOSED		= \$_____

SET-UP

Friday
12PM-8PM
Saturday
6AM –8AM

Bring your own extension cord
for electricity

Make Checks payable to: **ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC**

A Special Thank You to Ham Radio Outlet – Atlanta

74th

Atlanta Hamfest

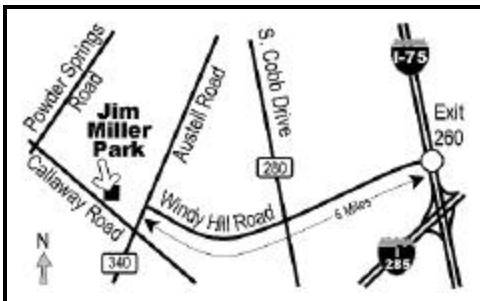


Gates Open:
8:30AM – 3:30PM
Admission: \$5
(18 & Under Free)
Talk-in: 146.820(-)
PL 146.2

Sponsored by: The Atlanta Radio Club, W4DOC, & The American Radio Relay League

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2002

Jim R. Miller Park – Cobb Co. 2245 Callaway Rd. Marietta, Georgia



? DEALERS ? FLEA MARKET ? TAILGATING
? PRIZES ? FCC EXAMS ? FOOD ? DISPLAYS
? EXHIBITS ? FORUMS ? R/V & CAMPING

Forum Schedule: 9AM ~ ORP / 10AM ~ SKYWARN /
11AM ~ AMSAT / 11AM ~ ARES / 12 PM ~ LINUX
1PM ~ ARRL Frank Butler

Visit our Web Site: www.atlantahamfest.com

For More Information, Contact:

John Talipsky, KA4VQH (770) 995-6446 or Email: johnka4vqh@aol.com

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO BOX 720398
ATLANTA, GA 30358



MEETING NOTICE May 2, 2002

(Continued from page 4)

Hams who would rather connect over the internet can telnet into KS4Q easily. First open a telnet program. This can be done by going to a DOS prompt in Windows 98 or using one of the many programs available (freeware and shareware). At the telnet prompt, type "telnet ks4q.dns2go.com". You will be asked your call and name just as you will when coming over RF.

Once you have connected to the system either way, the fun begins! There are several easy commands to help you find exactly what you want. Otherwise, just what the screen and see what is announced. Typical non-contest spot rates are 60/hour. During major contests, this rate can hit 600/hr!

SH/DX Shows the last 5 DX stations spotted.

SH/DX/10 Shows the last 10 DX stations spotted

SH/WWV Shows last 5 WWV spots.

SH/DX P5 Shows the last 5 P5 (North Korea) stations spotted

SH/DX 80 Shows the last 5 DX stations spotted on 80M

This will get you started. There are help menus available once you have signed on. We hope to have anybody who is interested able to get connected and snag that DX.

Rick Glisson, N4XMX, edits the Southeastern DX Club's newsletter and is a past membership chairman for the Atlanta Radio Club

The Signman of Baton Rouge



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